

CLAIMS

1. A terminal block for electric distribution comprising a main port for a main power conductor and a series of tap ports for distribution of power, the main and tap ports comprising seating sockets with transversely extending clamp screws adapted to secure conductors seated in the sockets, an insulating case for said block having a transparent cover providing visual access to said conductors, respective ports in said case for inserting conductors fully seated in said respective ports, and ports in said cover providing access to said clamp screws whereby conductors may be inserted fully seated in said ports and secured with said clamp screws without contact with the block.

2. A terminal block as set forth in claim 1 including window openings in said block at the seating end of each port to enable the tip of each conductor inserted to be viewed through the transparent cover.

3. A terminal block as set forth in claim 2 wherein said transparent cover may be hinged to said insulating case.

4. A terminal block as set forth in claim 3 including respective limiting ports in said cover for each said clamp screw enabling an insulated tool to be inserted with close clearance for operation of the respective screw but precluding finger insertion.

5. A terminal block as set forth in claim 4 including respective ports in said case for each of the tap ports in said block enabling a bare conductor end to be inserted into the respective port to full seating against the seating end of the port.

6. A terminal block as set forth in claim 5 including alignment galleries in said case to facilitate the insertion of said conductors in said tap ports.

7. A terminal block as set forth in claim 2 wherein said tap ports are arranged in offset rows and the seating end of the ports of at least one row are partially blocked by an adjoining row.

8. A terminal block as set forth in claim 7 wherein the wall of the block partially blocking the seating end of each port is formed with an inverted conical surface to facilitate the installer visually checking the position of the tip of the conductor when seated in the port.

9. A terminal block is set forth in claim 8 wherein the angle of the wall at the center of the conical surface is from about 15 to about 40° transverse of the axis of the port.

10. A terminal block as set forth in claim 8 wherein the wall blocking the seating end of the tap port extends far enough to prevent over insertion of the conductors.

11. An electric distribution terminal block comprising a conductive block having a main power connection in one side and smaller tap connections in another side, each connection comprising a socket with an abutment at the inner end adapted to receive the conductor, and a transverse clamp screw to secure the conductor in the socket when tightened, and an opening at the abutment end of each socket to provide visual access to the end of the conductor when inserted properly against the abutment in the socket.

12. An electric distribution terminal block as set forth in claim 11 including an insulating case for said block, and a transparent window in said case to provide the installer such visual access from outside the case.

13. An electric distribution block as set forth in claim 12 wherein said transparent window is opposite the openings at the abutment end of each socket.

14. An electric distribution block as set forth in claim 13 wherein said transparent window is the top of the case.

15. An electric distribution block as set forth in claim 14 wherein said top may be hinged to the case.

16. An electric distribution block as set forth in claim 15 including respective ports in said cover providing limited access to the respective clamp screws.

17. An electric distribution block as set forth in claim 16 including respective ports in said insulating case to enable bare conductor ends to be inserted into the respective socket against the abutment.

18. An electric distribution block as set forth in claim 17 including alignment galleries in said case to facilitate the insertion of said bare conductor ends into said sockets.

19. An electric distribution block as set forth in claim 16 wherein said sockets are arranged in offset rows with the inner end of the sockets of at least one row being partially blocked by the adjoining row.

20. An electric distribution block as set forth in claim 16 including a wall of the block partially blocking the inner end of each socket to prevent over insertion of the ends of the conductors.

21. An electric distribution block as set forth in claim 18 wherein the blocking wall of each socket is formed with a generally inverted conical surface.

22. A method of distributing power from an electrical distribution block to a plurality of tap connections comprising the steps of enclosing the block in an insulating case, energizing the block with a main connection and then adding one or all tap connections while preventing finger contact with the block.

23. A method as set forth in claim 22 including the step of providing an abutment for correct positioning of each tap connection.

24. A method as set forth in claim 22 including the step of providing a visual check for correct positioning of each tap connection.

25. A method as set forth in claim 22 including the step of providing both an abutment and a visual check for the correct positioning of each tap connection.